

CITATION

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

MARK A. BENEDICT

In recognition of the outstanding contributions of Mark A. Benedict in furthering the Department's conservation mission and promoting community-based collaboration.

The work of Dr. Mark A. Benedict made a substantial and enduring contribution to the protection of the Nation's natural resources through an innovative approach to conservation that is both strategic and proactive, that is sustainable, and that also balances positive economic growth with the protection of important lands. Through training courses, workshops, and the publication of a nationally-acclaimed book entitled, *Green Infrastructure: Linking Landscapes and Communities*, Dr. Benedict promoted, fostered, and encouraged the protection and enhancement of publicly managed lands. This was accomplished through interconnected networks of protected resource lands that both buffer national park units, wildlife refuges, national forests, and military facilities and link these lands to other important public and private natural resource and working lands. Living by the principle that "a network of protected lands can only be established and sustained by a set of enduring partnerships," Dr. Benedict worked tirelessly to nurture, establish and support community-based collaborative partnerships. This was demonstrated by establishing The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network; by serving as the Liaison to Non-Governmental Organizations at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia; through leadership at hundreds of workshops and conferences; and perhaps most importantly, as a caring and passionate person and professional.

For his exemplary collaborative work, that greatly enhanced the protection of the Nation's natural resources through a conservation approach that is strategic, proactive, and sustainable, Mark A. Benedict is posthumously granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.

Secretary of the Interior